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The stage is dark. In the middle is a large chair in which an old man, Dr. Joseph Workman himself, sits reading by the light of a single lamp. On the table beside him are a flask of brandy, several glasses, cigars and cigarettes.

Male Voice: I would like to answer a question which is frequently heard by alienists. Do we find the organic changes of our subjects any which may account for the numerous and varied forms of mental disorders? Is there a material structural alteration of the brain, which should explain the strange manifestations of insanity?

As the voice speaks, Dr. Workman adjusts himself accordingly.

An old professor, whose hairs had become silvered in the study of insanity, and who was accustomed to long vigils whilst poring over questions of science, was one night overtaken by drowsiness; he placed his head against the back of his chair, and closed his eyes, to get a little repose.

At this point, a shrouded figure to Dr. Workman's left, Divine Madness, mimes the speaker's words. She carries a scroll, and discreetly deposits it on the corner of Dr. Workman's table.